

11 and 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,030,556 (Adachi). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Yonekubo and Adachi are not available as prior art against the instant claims. The present application claims priority benefit of JP 2002-36552, filed December 17, 2002 and JP 2003-049396 filed on February 26, 2003. Submitted herewith are, upon information and belief, accurate translations of JP 2002-36552 and JP 2003-049396. As is evident from the translations of JP 2002-36552 and JP 2003-049396 attached hereto, the pending claims are fully supported by JP 2002-36552 and JP 2003-049396. Accordingly, the pending claims are entitled to the benefit of the December 17, 2002 filing date of JP 2002-36552.

Yonekubo has a U.S. filing date of October 29, 2003 and Adachi has a U.S. filing date of September 2, 2003. As both Yonekubo and Adachi were filed after the December 17, 2002 effective filing date of the present application, and as acknowledged by the Office Action, Yonekubo and Adachi are not available as prior art against the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

For the foregoing reasons, Yonekubo and Adachi are not available as prior art against the instant claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejoinder

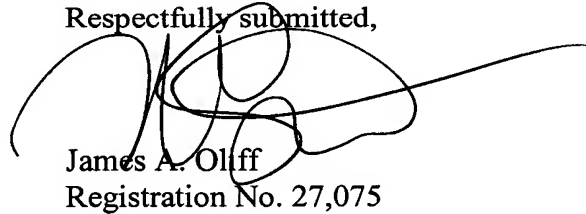
Withdrawn claims 12 and 13 are method claims that depend from elected claim 1. Thus, upon allowance of claim 1, rejoinder and allowance of claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested. See MPEP §821.04.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

English translations of priority documents JP 2002-365522 and JP 2003-049396

Date: June 25, 2007

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